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General and complete disarmament

Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Note by the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.34

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.34, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in Geneva from 16 to 20 September 2002, and, on behalf of States parties and in accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention, to invite States not parties to the Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend the Meeting as observers.

2. The request contained in operative paragraph 8 relates to programme 2, Disarmament, and programme 6, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.[1] No provision has been made under section 4, Disarmament, or section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 for the activities called for in the Convention, except for those related strictly to the depositary functions of the Secretary-General.

3. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.34, the Secretary-General foresees requirements for Secretariat assistance and substantive support services for its implementation, including the travel of substantive and conference-servicing staff, as appropriate.

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4. The costs of the Fourth Meeting would, in accordance with article 14 of the Convention, be borne by the States parties and States not parties to the Convention participating in the Fourth Meeting, in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment, adjusted appropriately. At the current stage, the Secretariat has prepared preliminary cost estimates, which have yet to be voted on by States parties.

5. Thus, pursuant to article 14 of the Convention, the request that the Secretary-General undertake the preparations necessary to convene the Fourth Meeting should have no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations. In this regard, it is noted that, following established practice, the United Nations would levy a charge, at the rate of 13 per cent of expenditures, to defray the administrative and other support costs incurred in connection with such preparations. That charge would also be borne by the States parties and States not parties to the Convention participating therein.

6. The Committee's attention is drawn to the established practices that all activities related to international conventions or treaties are to be financed from outside the regular budget of the United Nations. Furthermore, those activities may be undertaken not only when sufficient resources to cover related expenditures are received, in advance, from the States parties and States not parties participating in such activities.

7. Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.34, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/55/6/Rev.1).